

# ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

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## New Book Documents WCC History in Past Seven Years

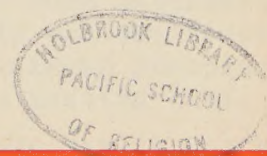
(Geneva) - The history of the World Council of Churches during the past seven years is the subject of a new book published here.

Entitled "Evanston to New Delhi", the 288-page volume records the development and programmes of the organization in the years between its Second Assembly held in Evanston, Ill., (USA) in 1954 and its Third Assembly scheduled November 18 - December 6, in New Delhi, India.

Accompanying the English-language edition, which was sent to all Assembly participants this week, was a companion piece - the 47-page Report of the International Missionary Council.

The integration of the two bodies is expected to be one of the major actions of the opening session of the Third Assembly.

The World Council volume includes a forward by Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, New York, WCC Central Committee chairman, and an epilogue by Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary. The eleven chapters trace the history and activities of the WCC's divisions, departments and other units between the two Assemblies. There is also a chapter on the East Asia Christian Conference. A section of appendices totalling nearly 100 pages includes 23 of the most important documents and reports issued by the WCC during the seven year period.



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Dr. Visser 't Hooft notes in the epilogue that despite the diversity of subjects treated "certain recurrent themes" are evident in the work of the Council since the Evanston Assembly. He lists these as: 1) "the Council has become more truly a World Council"; 2) "the missionary dimension of the Church's calling has come to take a larger place in the work of many units"; 3) "the period has been characterized by a renewed emphasis on the calling of the churches to concrete, visible unity"; and 4) the World Council has "become more deeply involved in the struggle for just and peaceful human relations".

From these recurring themes, he writes, it is possible to draw several conclusions. One of these, he says, is that the Council, since its founding in 1948, has become "an indispensable part of the life of (its) member churches."

"This does not mean that in all the member churches there is a strong awareness of their relation to a wider ecumenical fellowship," he writes. "But it does mean that in many ways the member churches use the framework of cooperation, of contact, of interchurch aid, of common study which the World Council has created. Seen from this angle, the World Council has become a part of the ecclesiastical structure which the churches need and desire to have in our time."

The IMC book opens with an historical introduction followed by six sections including one on the developments of national and regional co-operation in missions in nine different areas of the world. It also reviews the IMC's programme in study, research and publications and its special tasks including the Theological Education Fund, study centres, the study of the expansion of Islam in Africa and the study of ways to meet the problems created by the rapid urbanization in some African countries.

The WCC book will be presented officially to the Third Assembly as the report of the Council's Central Committee, the 90-member policy-making body which meets annually between Assemblies. The IMC report also will be presented to the WCC Assembly and to the IMC Assembly also scheduled in New Delhi shortly before the WCC Assembly opens. German and French editions of both books are expected to be ready in about one month.

Information about how to secure copies of the two publications is available from: Publications Office, World Council of Churches, 17 route de Malagnou, Geneva, Switzerland. EPS, Geneva

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Pictures to accompany this story are available from: WCC Department of Information, 17 route de Malagnou, Geneva, Switzerland.

#### Laymen Discuss European Integration and East-West Relations

(Bad Nauheim) - The Committee on the Christian Responsibility for European Cooperation has come to the conclusion that the real danger in the world today does not come from the threat of open aggression, but from "possible misunderstanding of the real position and moral commitments of the two parties in the Cold War".

"Everything possible should be done to prevent such misunderstanding regarding the Western position on the access to Berlin and the freedom of its inhabitants," the unofficial ecumenical group of well-known European laymen said in a statement issued at the end of their recent meeting here.

The committee noted that the existence of a free Berlin has been "a constant reminder that the peoples of Europe were liberated from Nazi tyranny in a common effort to be free and independent".







"If the Western powers were to allow themselves to be driven out of Berlin," the statement declared, "they would not only give up the aims for which they went to war, but would formally recognize the Soviet domination in the whole of Eastern Europe."

Several promising developments in the economic integration of Europe through the establishment of the Common Market were noted by the committee, which has been meeting twice annually for the last decade to consider Christian responsibility in the move toward European economic and political co-operation.

"The European communities of the Six have established themselves as a vigorous force for economic expansion and political cooperation," the statement said, pointing out that there is increasing evidence that Great Britain will also join the Common Market.

"A united Europe presents us with a remarkable opportunity to serve better not only our children, but other parts of the world as well. The future character of European society will greatly depend on the outcome of this process, for which Christians have a clear responsibility, and it should be a matter in which the churches should take an active interest."

Dr. C. L. Patijn of Holland is chairman of the committee. Vice-chairmen are Dr. Walter Bauer of Germany, Professor André Philip of France, and Mr. Peter Kirk, M.P., of Great Britain. M. Henri Burgelin of France is the secretary.

Others attending the meeting were Dr. Ugene Gerstenmaier, president of the West German Bundestag; Dr. Walter Strauss, Minister of Justice in the Federal German Republic; Dr. Gustav Heinemann, Social Democratic Party member of the Bundestag and former Minister of the Interior; M. Jean Rey of Belgium, a member of the governing authority of the European Common Market, and Dr. Max Kohnstamm of Holland, a leader in the movement for European integration.  
EPS, Geneva

#### Protestants Plan United Literature Campaign in Africa

(Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia) - The All-Africa Christian Literature and Audio-Visual Conference has set as one of its goals "a Christian periodical in every Christian home".

The conference, held at the Mindolo Ecumenical Centre here, also cited the need to ensure the availability "in a few main vernaculars and in the linguae francae of the whole range of books which the Church needs for its witness, its training and its devotional life" in Africa.

A message, adopted at the closing session of the conference, urged Christians to see the importance of "making Christ known in our rapidly changing Africa" through the production of audio-visual aids and through "literature written directly in African languages by African authors for their own people".

The message noted that "a maze of linguistic problems" is created because there are some 800 African languages. However, it said the Church cannot postpone its witness through literature and audio-visual aids "until all is peace and quiet". It added: "In the new nations Christians must now as in past centuries be the conscience of society and the nation. Christian literature must take its place as a mouthpiece of the Church, which (must) play its role with other voluntary agencies in aiding governments as they initiate new projects which affect many aspects of individual and social life."





Noting that the conference recognized that a massive literature campaign is too great a task to be undertaken by individual denominations, the message said that the conferees recognized their "oneness in Christ and (had) been led to plan for many types of literature and audio-visual communication in which all can join".

The conference brought together 90 Christian literature experts from 20 African countries, as well as resource persons from Asia, Europe and America. They represented 23 denominational backgrounds. EPS, Geneva

#### Suomi Lutherans Approve Four-Way Merger

(Fairport Harbour, Ohio) - The annual convention of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church (Suomi Synod) has approved the agreement to merge with three other Lutheran bodies to form the new 3,000,000 member Lutheran Church in America. The agreement had earlier been approved by 77 per cent of Suomi's congregations in a referendum conducted last February.

The merger will unite the church with the United Lutheran Church in America, the Augustana Lutheran Church and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church. (See EPS No.11.) EPS, Geneva

#### ALC to Review Membership in World Council of Churches

(Minneapolis) - The American Lutheran Church will review its membership in the World Council of Churches at its first general convention in Milwaukee, in October, 1962, according to Dr. Frederik A. Schiotz, president of the 2,300,000-member denomination.

In a report to the conventions of the ALC's 19 districts, Dr. Schiotz said arrangements have been made for church-wide study of the matter before it comes before the general convention.

He reported that Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, WCC general secretary, will deliver the Hein Memorial Lectures at three Lutheran seminaries next May.


The presence of Dr. Visser 't Hooft on the seminary campuses, he said, "will provide an excellent opportunity for pastors to ascertain by personal confrontation whether the scurrilous things that are often said about the Council are true," Dr. Schiotz noted.

Meanwhile, Dr. Schiotz disclosed that doctrinal discussions will get under way "early in 1962" between the ALC and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The conversations "looking toward pulpit and altar fellowship" are being arranged by the ALC's Committee on Relations to Lutheran Churches and the Missouri Synod's Commission on Doctrinal Unity. EPS, Geneva

#### NCC Organizes "Grass Roots" US School Aid Fight

(New York) - Five hundred US Protestant leaders have received a letter from the National Council of Churches urging them to press for Congressional approval of a Federal aid-to-education programme that would exclude grants or loans to parochial schools.



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Declaring that "Roman Catholic interests are jeopardizing the Federal aid bill to public schools", the NCC wrote that such legislation is being held up in the House Rules Committee because of a demand by Catholics that grants or loans to parochial schools be approved concurrently. The bill has already been approved in the Senate. Approval by both houses is required before the bill can be signed into law by the President.

The letter acknowledged the right of Catholics "to work as citizens for their interests", but it added that "it is important for non-Catholics to work with equal diligence for what they consider best for the country and for all the churches".

Only "a massive surge of concern at the grass roots, directed at the Congressmen by the constituents", can save the House bill for public school aid, the letter continued.

The letter was signed on behalf of the Council by the Rev. Dean M. Kelley, director of the Council's Department of Religious Liberty, and the Rev. Gerald E. Knoff, executive secretary of the Division of Christian Education, who testified on the proposal at a hearing before the House Education Subcommittee.

Mr. Kelley disclosed that the NCC is instituting a four-year study of church-state relationships by its member denominations because of the efforts of the Catholic Church to obtain Federal aid for its schools, and because of questions raised by the religious issue in the last Presidential campaign. A national conference has been proposed for 1964 to coordinate the thinking of Protestants on church-state relations. EPS, Geneva

#### California Rancher Donates Wheat for Greece

(Pleasanton, California) - An Irish immigrant to the United States, who now owns ranches in California and Nevada, has promised to contribute 50 tons of wheat annually for the next four years to feed the hungry overseas.

The rancher, Coleman Foley of Pleasanton, has already given his first 50-ton gift, which is bound for Greece, where it will be distributed through the Christian Rural Overseas Programme (CROP), a US agency, to 2,000 families participating in a self-help land reclamation and irrigation project. EPS, Geneva

#### Covenant Church Establishes Interchurch Commission

(Chicago) - The theologically-conservative Evangelical Covenant Church of America has established a Commission on Interchurch Relations to implement its decision to strengthen the denomination's relations with other Protestant bodies during the coming year.

This action was taken at the 76th annual meeting of the 60,000-member denomination which at present does not belong to either the World or National Councils of Churches (USA).

The Rev. Herbert E. Palmquist, chairman of the denomination's Comity Commission, told delegates to the meeting that members of the church should "seek to enlarge the measure of understanding among Christians, to be truthful about each other, and not make unwarranted and unproved allegations which have their real basis in our prejudices.

"The day is gone when as churches we confronted each other," he declared. "The day has come when as churches together we confront a militant and godless world. We cannot live without diversity, but we can and must live in love," he added. "In these desperate days, we need each other." EPS, Geneva







Dr. Schmidt-Clausen Named LWF Executive Secretary

(Warsaw) - Dr. Kurt Schmidt-Clausen of Wunstorf, Germany, has been elected executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation to succeed Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, who resigned from the post last August because of ill health.

Dr. Schmidt-Clausen, who had been serving as acting executive secretary, was elected at the annual meeting of the Federation's Executive Committee here.

Pastor Schmidt-Clausen is chairman of the Ecumenical Commission of the Lutheran Church of Hannover. He is the first European to serve as executive secretary of the LWF which represents 62 Lutheran bodies in 33 countries with a combined membership of some 50,000,000.

The committee also elected the Rev. Bruno Muetzelfeldt, LWF secretary for resettlement and material relief as director of the Federation's Department of World Service to succeed Dr. Bengt Hoffman who resigned.

In another action, the Executive Committee approved for LWF membership four churches in Africa and one in India. Their memberships will become effective one year after the committee's action, provided their entrance is approved by at least two-thirds of the Federation's present constituents.

The African bodies are the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church of South West Africa, the Evangelical Lutheran Church - Zulu-Xhosa-Swazi Region of South Africa, the Lutheran Church of Christ in the Sudan of Nigeria, and the Lutheran Church of Uzaramo-Uluguru of Tanganyika. The Indian body is the Arcot Lutheran Church. About 217,500 persons are members of these churches.

EPS, Geneva

Greek Daily Comments on Russian Orthodox Bid for WCC Membership

(Athens) - Admission of the Russian Orthodox Church into the World Council of Churches would mean that almost all of the Orthodox communions would be represented in the ecumenical movement, a leading Greek newspaper has commented editorially.

The newspaper, Athinaiki, noted that although several Orthodox churches have participated in the World Council, the Council has not been truly ecumenical because of the absence of the Roman Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church. "The Vatican (continues to insist that) unity means for it submission of Orthodox and Protestants to the Pope," it commented.

However, if the Russian Orthodox Church's application is approved at the WCC's Third Assembly in New Delhi, next November, "the (ecumenical) movement will no longer be an affair concerning primarily Protestant churches", it said.

"A great problem, however, arises on the Orthodox side," the newspaper observed. "Orthodoxy should not act in the WCC as a dislocated force, but, on the contrary, must present a united front."

Athinaiki remarked that, until now, the Russian Church "followed the work of the WCC from a distance, showing its disapproval of what it considered as a Protestant family affair and as a means of camouflage of the pursuits of the Western world".

In attempting to explain the change in attitude by the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate, the newspaper attributed it to "a deliberate and well-calculated change of tactic".







"The co-existence proclaimed by Nikita Khrushchev is an axiom which could not but be adopted by the Church of Russia," it said. "Just as the Soviet Union has liberated itself from its fears and is looking for collaboration and better relations with bourgeois peoples, the Russian Church is convinced that it can co-exist with Protestant churches in the framework of the ecumenical movement."

EPS, Geneva

### In Brief

A Dutch Dominican weekly, De Bazuin, has expressed its criticism of the attitude of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Angola. The newspaper protested that "Christianization" is still being confused with "Portugualization" in Angola, thus permitting conditions to continue there which have disappeared in other countries. It called upon church authorities in Angola to seek a genuine revival, steering a course between modernism and integrality.

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Dr. Ernesto Schieper, president of the Federation of Lutheran Churches of Brazil, told a group in Frankfurt-am-Main that his country has an urgent need for Lutheran pastors. He noted that a thousand parishes and an additional 200 preaching stations are at present being served by only 200 ministers. There are some 600,000 Lutherans in Brazil, most of them of German origin.

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The US Army and Air Force are among the heaviest purchasers of films and filmstrips produced by the National Council of Churches in the USA. Audio-visual materials, ranging in subject matter from pre-marital counseling to foreign missions, international church relief and the training of youth leaders, have been purchased by the services, according to a recent report.

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The 236,000-member Christian Reformed Church (USA) has voted to continue conversations looking towards merger with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Protestant Reformed Churches of America. The former has 9,500 members and the latter about 3,000.

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Some 15 experts in the field of race relations from the four universities in New Zealand have been invited to participate in a seminar to be sponsored by the New Zealand National Council of Churches. Also taking part will be 15 New Zealand church leaders. The purpose of the seminar is to discuss relations of the nation's minority groups including the Maoris, its 6,000 Chinese and the increasing number of immigrants from the Pacific islands.

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The 100th anniversary of L'Osservatore Romano, semi-official Vatican newspaper, was commemorated July 1 with a special 64-page edition.

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According to reports received by a Religious News Service correspondent in Bangkok, Thailand, children who had attended Christian schools in areas occupied by Communist-directed Pathet Lao forces in Laos have been taken to Hanoi, the capital city of North Vietnam, for political indoctrination. Brighter students are being sent to Moscow for more extensive training, the reports said.

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Rennie's Mill, Hong Kong, site of the concentration of thousands of Chinese refugees from the Mainland, will be taken over by the Hong Kong government and administered as a resettlement area. Officers of the government Resettlement Department have started a census of the area, as the basis to plan improvements. A new site within the area will be allotted to any family who is dispossessed and the Department will provide assistance in moving.

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Religious books continue to be published in Hungary, according to a report submitted to the recent annual convention in Budapest of the St. Stephen Literary Society, century-old Roman Catholic publisher of devotional texts. The report includes a long list of new books published last year.

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Dates for the Pan-Orthodox Conference in Rhodes have been set for September 24 through October 1. (See EPS No.21.)

\* \* \*

Bishop Nikodim, head of the Office of Foreign Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church has been named Archbishop of Yaroslav and Rostov. Aged 32, Archbishop Nikodim was consecrated bishop just last year. Archbishop Nikodim attended the enthronement last week of the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, where a young Russian Baptist acted as his interpreter.

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It has been reported that Professor Helmut Gollwitzer, a prominent Protestant theologian on the faculty of West Berlin's Free University, has been proposed by Basel University, Switzerland, to succeed Dr. Karl Barth, the noted Swiss theologian, who is expected to retire shortly.

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CORRECTION: Upon integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, a new Commission and Division of World Mission and Evangelism will be created within the WCC. The word Commission was omitted from the title in a story on the proposed integration (page 3) of last week's EPS. The editors regret this error.

